

In the Claims

Kindly cancel Claims 1-92, without prejudice and with right of re-entry into this application or any other appropriate application. Kindly amend Claims 98 and 100, and add new Claims 101-108 as follows.

1-92(cancelled).

93(previously added). A bone support plate assembly, comprising:

- (a) a bone support plate;
- (b) a second plate element, mounted to said bone support plate,

said bone support plate assembly being designed and adapted to receive bone fasteners therethrough thus to fasten said bone support plate assembly to first and second underlying bone structures of a recipient user thereof,

said bone support plate assembly being adapted to accommodate, when mounted to such first and second underlying bone structures, post procedural settling of at least one of such first and second bone structures with respect to the other of such first and second bone structures.

94(previously added). A bone support plate as in Claim 93 wherein said bone support plate assembly comprises a spinal plate assembly and wherein such first and second underlying bone structures comprise first and second vertebrae.

95(previously added). A bone support plate as in Claim 93, said second plate element engaging said bone support plate so as to slide with respect to said bone support plate.

96(previously added). A bone support plate as in Claim 93, further comprising bone-fastener-receiving apertures in at least one of said bone support plate and said second plate element, thereby to effect the fastening of said bone support plate assembly to such first and second underlying bone structures of such recipient user.

97(currently amended). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 93, further comprising apertures in at least one of said first and second plates, said apertures being adapted to receive bone fasteners therethrough thus to fasten said bone support plate assembly to such first and second underlying bone bond structures.

98(currently amended). A bone support plate assembly, comprising:

- (a) a first plate;
- (b) a second plate mounted to said first plate and engaged with engaging said first plate so as to slide with respect to said first plate; and
- (c) apertures in at least one of said first and second plates, said apertures being adapted to receive bone fasteners therethrough thus to fasten said bone support plate assembly to first and second underlying bone structures of a recipient user thereof,

said bone support plate assembly being adapted to accommodate, when mounted to such first and second underlying bone structures, post procedural settling of at least one of such

first and second bone structures with respect to the other of such first and second bone structures.

99(previously added). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 98 wherein said bone support plate assembly comprises a spinal plate assembly and wherein such first and second underlying bone structures comprise first and second vertebrae.

100(currently amended). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 98, further comprising apertures in at least one of said first and second plates, said apertures being adapted to receive bone fasteners therethrough thus to fasten said bone support plate assembly to such first and second underlying bone bond structures.

101(new). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 93 wherein said first and second plates are made from material selected from the group consisting of titanium and stainless steel.

102(new). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 94 wherein said first and second plates are made from material selected from the group consisting of titanium and stainless steel.

103(new). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 95 wherein said first and second plates are made from material selected from the group consisting of titanium and stainless steel.

104(new). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 96 wherein said first and second plates are made from material selected from the group consisting of titanium and stainless steel.

105(new). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 97 wherein said first and second plates are made from material selected from the group consisting of titanium and stainless steel.

106(new). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 98 wherein said first and second plates are made from material selected from the group consisting of titanium and stainless steel.

107(new). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 99 wherein said first and second plates are made from material selected from the group consisting of titanium and stainless steel.

108(new). A bone support plate assembly as in Claim 100 wherein said first and second plates are made from material selected from the group consisting of titanium and stainless steel.